**Current Proposed Acres:** 24,900  
**CBLC Proposed Acres:** 25,652  
**Current Management Status:** BLM Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC)

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**Area Description**
The Bluewing Mountains, are a classic desert wilderness. Colorful volcanic formations, open rocky ground, and low vegetation create an area of endless vistas and unlimited options for exploration. Bounded by the Juniper Pass road on the south, the arid environment of the Bluewing Mountains are virtually treeless with only a handful of isolated junipers pioneering this empty landscape. The range is flanked on the east by Granite Springs Valley and on the west by Kumiva Valley. A beautiful small playa sits immediately west of the area and provides a stark contrast with the dark volcanic rocks of Black Mountain, which is the area’s high point at an elevation 6,617 feet.

**Naturalness**
Dark Miocene volcanic formations overlaying lower-elevation multicolored, Triassic-Jurassic folded and faulted shales dominate the geological and visual terrain of the Bluewing Mountains. This is an area of deeply eroded formations creating a convoluted landscape of endlessly rolling hills and convoluted drainage channels. Here pronghorn and jackrabbits can be found and Horned Larks and Black-throated Sparrows can be heard singing in the early morning light. Reptiles and rodents are the most plentiful fauna found within this desert wilderness. Raptors and carrion-eaters frequent the area searching for food opportunities within this open landscape. Although devoid of taller vegetation, this area provides summer and transitional range for the yearly mule deer migrations. A heavy armor of spectacular, stony desert pavement covers the broad alluvial fans on the south and southeast side of the area. This arid landscape is mostly devoid of water. Several springs exist, mostly clustered on the north and north east side of Black Mountain. Of these springs, only Black Mountain Spring may provide dependable water. The other two springs have become undependable as the climate becomes warmer and dryer. The rest of the precipitation falling here is either quickly ushered to the surrounding valleys via the numerous drainages and channels or is absorbed by the thirsty ground. Many wildlife and wild horse and burro trails crisscross this area in the constant quest for food and water.
Recreation and Solitude
The open and accessible landscape of the Bluewing Mountains is misleading. The area offers multiple challenges for those who seek to explore this wild and remote area. The lack of water means explorers must plan carefully and carry sufficient water, especially during multiday trips. The summer months present the additional challenges of high temperatures and no opportunities for shade. Winter challenges are compounded by icy northern winds and wild fluctuation temperatures, which can vary from the fifties to below zero in the course of a single day. For visitors with the determination and skills to travel in these challenging conditions, the Bluewing Mountains offer stunning, ever-changing vistas, colorful formations, and opportunities for exploration in this rough, rugged and rocky landscape. Within the Bluewing Mountains, one can escape and find solitude along the complex hills and in the many canyons and hidden washes of this remote area. Spectacular views of the surrounding areas from the ridges and highpoints give one the sense that you can see for miles and give you the feeling of wide-open county. This is big sky country, perfect for cloud watching during the day and star gazing at night.

Issues and Proposed Resolution
During the Checkerboard Lands Committee process sponsored by Pershing County Commission over the period of time from 2004-2006. After a series of meetings and field trips, the Checkerboard Committee recommended to the Pershing County Commission the Bluewing be considered for wilderness. This proposal was then adopted by the Pershing County Commission on March 1, 2006. When the Winnemucca BLM began working on identifying resource inventory information as a part of the Resource Management Plan, based on the Checkerboard Lands Committee recommendation, Bluewing was included as having wilderness values. When the Winnemucca BLM resource management plan was finalized, Bluewing was included as part of the final decision.

There were a number of miners that brought forward issues with claims near the northern boundary of the proposal. After researching the claims and meeting with a number of the miners, a boundary adjustment was made on the north end that eliminated all the claims in that block including the location for the Healing the Heros activities.

Access routes for ranching and hunting have been identified and will remain open for motorized use.

Maps
The maps on the following pages show the original Bluewing area as well as the revised area where conflicts have been resolved.